Appln. No.: 09/997,391
Amendment Dated August 8, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 11, 2006

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of providing information using an information appliance coupled to a server at a location remote from the information appliance, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing text files in a database at the remote location;

(b) converting, at the remote location, the text files stored in step (a) into speech files and storing the converted speech files;

(c) receiving a request for a portion of the speech files converted in step (b);

(d) retrieving the requested portion from the stored converted speech files and transmitting to the information appliance the portion of the speech files requested in step (c);

(e) receiving and storing the speech files in the information appliance transmitted in step (d);

(f) presenting a sequence of aural prompts;

(g) navigating through the stored speech files in the information appliance, responsive to the aural prompts, to extract a section of the stored speech files; and

(h) presenting the extracted section of the stored speech files extracted in step (g) through audio speakers.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which step (e) includes receiving speech files of one of electronic program guide (EPG) information, weather information and news information.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of providing information using an information appliance coupled to a server at a location remote from the information appliance, comprising the steps of: ~~The method of claim 1 in which~~

(a) ~~step (a) includes~~ storing electronic program guide (EPG) text files, in a database at the remote location;

(b) ~~step (b) includes~~ converting, at the remote location, the EPG text files stored in step (a) into EPG speech files, and storing the converted EPG speech files;

(c) receiving a request for a portion of the EPG speech files converted in step (b) ~~step (c) includes receiving~~ and a request for the EPG text files; ~~and~~

(d) retrieving the requested portion from the stored converted EPG speech files and transmitting to the information appliance the portion of the EPG speech files requested in step (c);

(e) receiving and storing the EPG speech files in the information appliance transmitted in step (d);

(f) presenting a sequence of aural prompts;

(g) navigating through the stored speech files in the information appliance, responsive to the aural prompts, to extract a section of the stored speech files;

(h) ~~step (f) includes~~ reformatting the EPG text files into a page of text and presenting the page of text on a television monitor; ~~and~~

~~the method including the following additional steps:~~

(i) receiving an indication of a location on the page of text corresponding to the extracted section of the stored speech files; and

(j) transmitting, from the remote location to the information appliance, a further portion of the EPG speech files corresponding to the received location indication.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 in which the page of text includes at least one date, multiple channels, multiple times and at least one legend inserted in a grid; and

step (d) includes transmitting speech files of the at least one date, multiple channels and multiple times;

step (i) includes receiving an indication of a location in the grid; and

step (j) includes ~~first transmitting speech files of the at least one date, multiple channels and multiple times and then~~ separately transmitting speech files of the legend in the grid location indicated in step (i).

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which step (b) includes converting the text files into speech files using a first text-to-speech (TTS) synthesizer and a second TTS synthesizer, whereby the first TTS synthesizer and the second TTS synthesizer use different languages.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which step (b) includes receiving a selection of one of multiple voice personalities, and converting the text files into speech files using the selected voice personality.

7.-8 (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 including

(i) presenting set-up configurations sequentially through the audio speaker;

(j) pausing the audio presented in step (i) between each set-up configuration; and

(k) waiting a predetermined time period during each pause to receive an input command.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which step (d) includes transmitting to the information appliance the portion of speech files at a periodic interval of time, and

step (e) includes storing the transmitted portion of speech files in a memory device of the information appliance.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of providing electronic program guide (EPG) information using a communications network, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing EPG text data in a server;

(b) converting the EPG text data into EPG audio data and storing the EPG audio data at the server;

(c) receiving a request for a portion of the audio data converted in step (b);

(d) transmitting the portion of the stored EPG audio data received in step (c) and the EPG text data through the network;

(e) receiving from the network, by a set top box (STB), at least the portion of the EPG audio data transmitted in step (d);

(f) storing, by the STB, the at least the portion of the EPG audio data received in step (e);

(g) presenting a sequence of aural prompts;

(h) entering commands responsive to the sequence of aural prompts;

(i) processing a section of the EPG audio data stored in step (f) in the STB, responsive to the commands entered in step (h); and

(j) presenting the section of the EPG audio data processed in step (i) through an audio speaker.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 in which step (e) includes receiving the EPG audio data at periodic time intervals.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 in which step (j) includes presenting the EPG audio data by announcing at least a channel, a time, and a legend corresponding to the channel and time;

pausing the announcement through the audio speakers; and

presenting by announcing at least another channel, time, and legend immediately after pausing the announcement.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 in which step (j) includes presenting the EPG audio data by announcing at least a channel; and the method including the following additional step:

(k) selecting the channel for one of listening and viewing.

15. (Currently Amended) An audio enabled data service system, including an information appliance comprising:

a memory device;

a modem adapted to connect to a network;

a processor coupled to the modem for (a) communicating on the network, (b) periodically receiving speech files from the network, (c) storing the speech files in the memory device and (d) providing a sequence of aural navigation prompts;

a receiver for accepting input commands from a remote control, the input commands entered responsive to ~~the~~ a sequence of aural navigation prompts;

an audio speaker configured with the processor to present the sequence of aural navigation prompts; and

the processor responsive to the input commands accepted by the receiver for (a) extracting a portion of the speech files stored in the memory device and (b) sending the extracted portion of the speech files to the audio speaker.

16. (Original) The audio enabled data service system of claim 15 including

a server coupled to the network;

wherein the server includes a storage device for storing electronic program guide (EPG) text files, a text-to-speech (TTS) synthesizer for converting the EPG text files into EPG speech files, and a transmitter for transmitting the EPG text files and the EPG speech files onto the network; and

the speech files received by the processor include the EPG speech files.

17. (Currently Amended) An~~The~~ audio enabled data service system ~~of claim 16~~ comprising:

~~including~~ a television monitor~~;~~, and ~~a receiver for receiving an input command;~~

an information appliance comprising:

a memory device,

a modem adapted to connect to a network,

a processor coupled to the modem for (a) communicating on the network, (b) periodically receiving electronic program guide (EPG) speech files and EPG

text files from the network, (c) storing the EPG speech files in the memory device and (d) providing a sequence of aural navigation prompts,

a receiver for accepting input commands from a remote control, the input commands entered responsive to the sequence of aural navigation prompts, and

an audio speaker configured with the processor to present the sequence of aural navigation prompts,

the processor is responsive to the input commands accepted by the receiver for (a) extracting a portion of the EPG speech files stored in the memory device and (b) sending the extracted portion of the EPG speech files to the audio speaker,

wherein; ~~the processor receives the EPG speech files and the EPG text files from the network;~~

the processor formats the EPG text files into a page of text; and the processor provides the page for display on the television monitor;

the receiver accepts~~receiving~~ an input command which provides an identifier for identifying a location on the page displayed on the television monitor; and

the processor, in response to the identifier, extracts a further portion of the EPG speech files corresponding to the identified location on the page, and sends the corresponding further portion of the EPG speech files to the audio speaker.

18. (Currently Amended) The audio enabled data service system of claim 17 wherein the page includes at least one date, multiple channels, multiple times, and at least one legend inserted in a grid;

the identifier identifies the grid on the page; and

the further portion of the EPG speech files extracted by the processor includes the legend inserted in the grid.

19. (Currently Amended) The audio enabled data service system of claim 18 further including a server coupled to the network,

wherein the server includes a storage device for storing the (EPG) text files, a text-to-speech (TTS) synthesizer for converting the EPG text files into the EPG speech files, and a transmitter for transmitting the EPG text files and the EPG speech files onto the network,

~~wherein~~ the processor receives the EPG speech files in response to a download request from the server; and

the download request includes a first download request for the at least one date, multiple channels and multiple times, and a second download request for the legend inserted in the grid.

20. (Original) The audio enabled data service system of claim 16 wherein the TTS synthesizer includes a synthesizer using one of a first language and a second language, whereby the first language is different from the second language.

21. (Original) The audio enabled data service system of claim 16 wherein the TTS synthesizer includes multiple voice personalities for converting the EPG text files into EPG speech files; and

the TTS synthesizer selects one of the multiple voice personalities, in response to an input command from the remote control.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which step (f) further includes presenting a sequence of prompts in text form corresponding to the sequence of aural prompts.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 in which step (g) further includes presenting a sequence of prompts in text form corresponding to the sequence of aural prompts.

24. (Previously Presented) The audio enabled data service system of claim 17 wherein the processor provides a sequence of prompts in text form corresponding to the sequence of aural navigation prompts for display on the television monitor.